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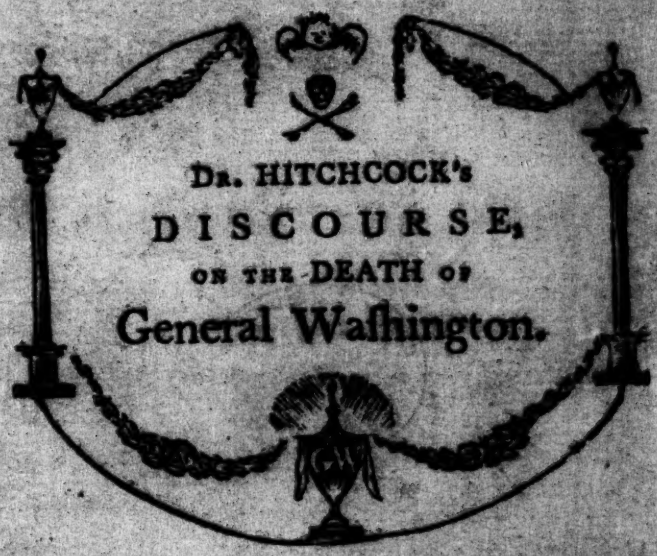
Eulogies on Washington



A

DISCOURSE,

ON THE

DIGNITY AND EXCELLENCE

OF THE

HUMAN CHARACTER;

ILLUSTRATED

IN THE LIFE OF

General George Washington,

LATE COMMANDER OF THE ARMIES, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN Commemoration OF

THE AFFLICTIVE EVENT OF HIS DEATH.

DELIVERED FEBRUARY 22, 1800, IN THE

BENEVOLENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE;

And Publiſhed by Requeſt of that Society.

BY ENOS HITCHCOCK, D. D.

MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI.

"Know ye not that there is a Prince and a great Man fallen this day in Iſrael?"
DAVID.

"Moſes died; and the children of Iſrael wept for Moſes thirty days."
DEUTERONOMY.

PROVIDENCE:

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A DISCOURSE, &c.

2d SAMUEL, i. 19 and 27.

THE BEAUTY OF ISRAEL IS SLAIN UPON THY HIGH PLACES: HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN!

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN, AND THE WEAPONS OF WAR PERISHED!

THE natal day of the FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY has once more occurred; but it no longer brings with it the wonted joy and festivity of the season. The harps are hung upon the weeping willows; the cheerful song converted into a solemn dirge. Death, by a sudden and awful stroke, has deprived our nation of its beauty and glory, and the world of its greatest ornament. Prompted by our own feelings, and a conviction of duty, ‡ we delayed not to lament the eventful crisis of human frailty, by suitable tokens and expressions of sensibility and sorrow. Our temples were shrouded in black, and our pulpits were vocal in his praise. Our nation this day assembles, in obedience to the procla-

‡ *See note (A) in the Appendix.*

mation of his com-patriot, our illuſtrious Preſident, to pay, in uniſon, the laſt public office of mournful reſpect to the memory of the man ſhe delighted to honour. In Iſrael thirty days of inceſſant mourning were ſolemnly paſſed on the death of Moſes, their lawgiver and leader; and we are told, that in Rome, badges of mourning were worn § a whole year after the death of ſome of their favourite chieftains. The event we have this day aſſembled to deplore is not merely a death—it is the departure of a WASHINGTON! The tear of affection and gratitude ſpontaneouſly flows. The involuntary ſigh heaves the patriot breaſt, and pours the full tide of grief at the urn of its father and friend: and in ſuch grief there is a luxury unknown to ſordid minds.

PATRIOTISM mourns the loſs of her firſt-born ſon. OUR country laments the loſs of ſo much amiableneſs of diſpoſition and character—of ſo much might and valour, which gave ſtrength and ſtability to the ſtate. But let us not loſe in unavailing ſorrow the rational and moral improvement to be derived from ſo afflictive a diſpenſation of Divine Providence.

To this end I have placed David at the head of this diſcourſe, bewailing the fall of Saul and Jonathan.

§ *See note (B) in the Appendix.*

It will not be neceſſary to enquire into the connected narrative of tranſactions which produced the event he ſo deeply laments, and in ſuch pathetic language calls on the people to memorize. "The beauty of Iſrael is ſlain; how are the mighty fallen!" and dwelling on the amiableneſs of the one, and the valour of the other, he exclaims again and again, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war periſhed!" The terms, "beauty" and "mighty," may be conſidered as expreſſing the native goodneſs of diſpoſition, and the amiable virtues of the life; great natural energy of mind; a genius ready at acquiring knowledge, and at diſcerning the fitteſt application of it; a ſpirit bold, active and enterprizing; a mind capable of great and benevolent conceptions; a character formed by noble exertions and heroic deeds. To lament fallen greatneſs is but a natural expreſſion of ſympathy at beholding the ſplendid ruins of human nature in her moſt ennobled ſons; it is a dictate of philanthropy, conſidering the importance of ſuch characters to the happineſs of ſociety.

A few thoughts on the true dignity and excellence of character will lead us to a juſt eſtimation of its great worth and importance, and to an improved view of the preſent occaſion.

The power and influence which characters, formed on the basis of real worth and excellence, give the possessors over the community; the virtue and order which their example sheds through society; the defence and protection which their exertions afford the state, render them pre-eminent blessings to the world, and make them the just objects of esteem and veneration while living, and of sincere regret, but of grateful memory, when the Supreme Ruler of the world sees fit to take them out of it. On the theatre of this world there is a field opened wide and extensive for the exercise of genius, and the exertion of all the powers of man, either in the cabinet of national councils, or in the field of national defence; in the advancement of science and the arts, or in the improvements of civilized and secular life; besides the discharge of the more private offices of friendship, and of domestic obligation.

As to the public and extensive services to which men, formed by nature to high elevation of character, are called for the good of their country, we know, and the world knows, their great importance and usefulness. Government, in the present state of things, is necessary to the existence of society; and military skill and prowess, with "weapons of war," are requisite for

the eſtabliſhment of civil rights, and defence of civil order. How happy that country, whoſe deſtinies, requiring the wiſdom of patriotic policy, and the energy of the intrepid warrior, gives birth to the paragon in whom both completely center! Highly as the circling ſpheres bleſs the natural world, by the regular operation of their eſtabliſhed laws, does the union of theſe qualities reflect their bleſſings on the political ſyſtem. It conſtitutes "the beauty" of our country, on account of native excellence; and "the mighty," on account of pre-eminence of character among the great.

Civil inſtitutions run parallel to the formation of ſociety. Neither a ſenſe of religion, nor a perception of moral obligation, has been found ſufficiently powerful in any age, to preſerve undiſturbed peace at home; much leſs to check the encroaching ſpirit of ambition or avarice from abroad. Hence ariſes the neceſſity of reſtraints from civil law, to curb the licentious and unprincipled; and of military force for defence. Hence alſo the neceſſity of great political and military talents, adapted to meet the exigencies of the times. Nor has Divine Providence been unmindful of this. But in every age it has raiſed up thoſe whoſe abilities enabled them to be eminently uſeful in their day. Moſt oppreſſed na-

tions have been favoured with ſome patriotic deliverer. In Iſrael a Moſes was raiſed up to deliver, and a Joſhua to lead the people; in Rome a Camillus; in Greece a Leonidas; in Sweden a Guſtavus; and in England a Hampden, a Ruſſel, a Sydney. Theſe were ſucceſsful in preſerving and defending the ſtate. But who of them, like a WASHINGTON, formed and eſtabliſhed an empire?

THE dignity of the human character does not conſiſt merely in the poſſeſſion or exertion of great talents.

IT is not the adventitious circumſtance of civil diſtinction, military honours, or opulent conditions, that gives a title to it. There are inſtances, not a few, of commanding genius, of vaſt mental reſource, and of great and brilliant deeds, all ſtained with the moſt peſtiferous crimes: a heart black as midnight darkneſs, with a head luminous as the midday ſun. Deeds that would do honour to the greateſt, and actions that would diſgrace the meaneſt of men, ſometimes conſtitute the mixed ſhades of the ſame character. Can ſuch an unhallowed mixture conſtitute dignity or excellence of character? Surely not. We may admire the hero, but we deſpiſe the man.

TRUE worth and greatneſs of character is formed by the union of the head and heart act-

ing in concert; in upright principles, directing the judgment and controuling the ſtrong arm of power; in the fear of God, ever guiding to a due regard to man. Actuated by theſe principles, the character will not be ſtained by the aſpirings of unhallowed ambition; but will gather beauty and luſtre from opportunities for great and benevolent actions; and the more the motives of action are examined, the more cloſely the character is ſcanned, the fairer will they appear.

The providence of God calls ſome men to act in high ſtations, and the circumſtances of the public require all their energies, either to form or adminiſter government, or defend the ſtate. Theſe are like a city placed on a hill. The light of their example, or the blackneſs of their character, becomes conſpicuous in proportion to their elevation; and every private ſtation becomes a poſt of honour, when honourably filled. The effects of example are great in a private ſtation—more ſo in the domeſtic ſtate. How important then the duty, and how great the bleſſings reflected on ſociety, by the good and virtuous example of thoſe who are rendered eminent by high ſtations, and the atchievement of glorious deeds! Such ſervices are peculiarly graced, and derive ſupreme worth from that excellence of character which perfumes the moſt amiable, and adds luſtre to the moſt illuſtrious. Not ſo much could the

dew of *Vernon's* fertile mount, deſcending on "the elevated lawn,"§ enrich the plains below; not ſo much could the clear ſhining after rain refreſh the tender graſs, as this moral excellence of character bleſs the land, by extending its influence from north to ſouth.

We are here reminded of a circumſtance that damps the uſual joys of this day.

"The beauty of Iſrael is ſlain; how are the mighty fallen!" No character ſo good, no man ſo great, but he muſt fall by the hand of death. Proſtrate in the duſt all human glory muſt be laid. Deſcended from the ſame original ſtock, all mankind are deſtined to the ſame end. The ſentence of—"*Duſt to duſt*"—is univerſal upon our race. In this warfare there is no diſcharge; in the grave no diſtinction. In the repoſitory of the dead we behold a mixed multitude, of all ages, conditions and characters; the aged and the young, the rich and the poor, the hero and the coward, the public magiſtrate and the private citizen, the pious chriſtian and the impious offender, who have promiſcuouſly fallen before all-conquering death. Such are the ravages death is conſtantly making upon our race!

§ *See note (C) in the Appendix.*

THE truth of theſe obſervations is verified in the afflicting inſtance of the fall of the glory, ſtrength and boaſt of our country.

YES, the *princely* ſoul of our beloved WASHINGTON has taken its flight! He is no longer diſturbed by the concuſſions of our jarring elements. The heavens open wide their huge portals to receive his pure and ennobled ſpirit; angels hail him welcome to his native ſeat; the immenſe temple of God becomes the place of his reſidence forever. He has ceaſed from his labours, but his works will long live. The inſcription on the lofty marble will for a long time inform the inquiſitive traveller—*Here lies the venerable chief*—"*Firſt in war, firſt in peace, and firſt in the hearts of his countrymen.*" The monumental inſcription ſhall mouldering time efface; but his heroic and benevolent deeds are recorded on the tablet of the heart. While man lives, they will live; ſo long as virtue has a name, they will be admired. Yea, his juſtly acquired fame ſhall ſurvive the wreck of nature; and wreaths of glory crown his head, when time ſhall be no more.

THE hiſtorian will attempt a diſplay of his virtues by a detail of his great tranſactions; the poet will celebrate his name in poliſhed and harmonic periods; he will aſſemble the worthies of

ancient and modern times, and by all the arts of playful imagination faintly pourtray a WASHINGTON. The painter and the ſculptor will employ all their art to eternize his noble form, and majeſtic mein, but can never fully expreſs the characteriſtic virtues which were enthroned on his brow. The eulogiſt will rack his invention to beſtow merited panegyric on a character whoſe depth it cannot fathom—language will refuſe her aid, and eulogy itſelf grow faint upon his tongue.

BUT to record his virtues in our hearts, and tranſmit his name, with veneration, to your children, is the claim of gratitude; and by raiſing a ſpirit of emulation, may be uſeful.

EVERY thing reſpecting this illuſtrious man is now become important. The very name of WASHINGTON is dear to us. The higheſt eulogium we could poſſibly beſtow, would be a correct account of his life and tranſactions. Here again we muſt fail, and ſatisfy ourſelves with a few of the outlines of a portrait which, if filled up with plain facts, would preſent it in a tranſcendent attitude.—General WASHINGTON was born of reſpectable parents, in Virginia, on the twenty-ſecond day of February, one thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-two. His education was not in the academic forums; but his native powers,

improved by close application under a private tutor, soon gave him a respectable station among the arts and sciences; and universities of the first rank in Europe and America have long deemed it an honour to have his name enrolled in their list of literary titles. Indeed, his letters and other compositions, both political and military, afford the best comment on his literary acquirements. He appears to have early imbibed the principles of religion. That he was nurtured in the habits of virtue, appears from their attending him through all the public and private walks of life. He never lost the respect of the son,* in the elevation of the commander in chief. Nor did patriotism diminish his connubial and domestic affection. Amiable in the discharge of these duties, he never for a moment lost sight of those ties that conferred the obligation upon him.

Early habits of a virtuous tendency, an early acquaintance with the principles of religion, and the exercises of piety, form the strongest barriers against vice in youth. They lay the surest foundation for honour and usefulness in life, respect in age, and comfort in death. A life commenced with such principles and habits, a youth of such sobriety, fidelity and filial respect, indicates a character to be distinguished afterwards by worthy deeds; a career of glory, supported and adorned by moral excellence, which shall

* *See note (B) in the Appendix.*

end in an age of tranquility and comfort. In this inſtance we are not diſappointed. We behold the happy cloſe of a life, which had been rendered glorious by the union of virtue and talents, ſhining with undiminiſhed luſtre. In whom has the virtue of the youth, the magnanimity of the ſoldier, the pure zeal of the patriot and the chriſtian, ever appeared with ſo much grace and dignity, as in him to whom we this day wiſh to aſſign a juſt tribute of reſpect?

In a ſound body dwelt a ſounder mind; the latter improved by cloſe application in youth; the former by athletic exerciſes. His judgment, ever a prominent feature in his character, ripened at an immature age into the able negociator;* and his bold and enterprizing ſpirit, features no leſs prominent, into the hardihood of the veteran ſoldier; and at the age of twenty he gained the meridian of ordinary life. The weſtern tribes of Indians, the French commander at Fort Du Queſne, and the unfortunate Britiſh army in the gorges of the Monongahela, all experienced in turn his uncommon addreſs in managing a treaty, or in covering the retreat of a ſhattered army in thoſe vaſt wilds, ere twenty-five years had rolled over him. Already had the government of Virginia committed high betruſtments to him. Already had he given ſtrong proofs of his piety ‡ as

* *See note (E) in the Appendix.* ‡ *See note (F) in the Appendix.*

well as of his patriotism and valour. He continued to justify their confidence, and they to express their full sense of it. Thus honoured in his own country; thus esteemed among kindred citizens, how clear his title to that honour and esteem! What then must have been their regret, when his health, impaired by the rigour of service and severe fatigue, rendered it necessary for him to retire from the service, in seventeen hundred fifty-nine?

From this time to the year seventy-five, we may perhaps most properly view him as the American farmer, though employed in various public offices, besides a seat in the Legislature. Situated on the summit of the very high ground called *Mount-Vernon*,* he converts that beautiful spot into a prolific garden, variegated into a most enchanting scenery. The arts of peace are less splendid, but more useful than those of war. By agricultural arts and improvements he rendered an extensive plantation a source of wealth to himself, and of instruction to others. This favourite spot now became more dear than ever, by a happy connubial union with the amiable and accomplished Mrs. Custis, the assiduous sharer of all his future anxieties, as well as partner of his joys. Domestic and agricultural concerns

* *See note (G) in the Appendix.*

now unite their friendly beams to ſpeed his way in thoſe delightful purſuits.

In ſeventy-four, we find him among the aſſembled worthies and patriots at Philadelphia. The portentous cloud hangs over the land—it is fraught with ire. Soon does the lightening flaſh from beneath the dark curdling carr that bears death and deſtruction to all hopes of reconciliation with a parent country. Already poſſeſſed of the metropolis of Maſſachuſetts, they iſſue forth, and on the ever-memorable nineteenth of April, ſeventy-five, Lexington and Concord preſent the malancholy viſage of ſlaughtered citizens. With eagerneſs our patriotic yeomanry ruſh to the encrimſoned field. But what is a hoſt without a head? Whither, O whither ſhall we turn, to find a leader whoſe powers ſhall juſtify the hope of ſucceſsful reſiſtance? Behold, in the midſt of our patriot band one appears—

"*Toto vertice ſupereſt.*"
"A whole head above the reſt."

It is a Washington! He is unanimouſly elected *Commander in Chief of the armies to be raiſed for the defence of the country.* "It is perhaps his peculiar glory, that there was not a ſingle inhabitant of theſe States, except himſelf, who did not approve the choice, and place the firmeſt

confidence in his integrity and abilities." But his native modesty induced him to express deep apprehensions of his inability to perform the momentous duties which such a trust devolved upon him. Obedient to his country's call, he evinced the motives of his acceptance to be neither mercenary nor vain, by declining any compensation for personal services.

Bidding adieu to his compatriots in the great council of the nation, he betakes himself to the field, where his abilities are more needed. The respectful gratulations of all classes* of people, as he passed the country; the joy and exultation of the army on his arrival at Cambridge, in July, are evincive of the instinctive confidence which his name inspired. How well qualified he was to take the command of an undisciplined, unprovided army, to reduce them to order, and to withstand as large and well appointed an army as perhaps was ever sent out of Europe, commanded by able and experienced officers, the event has proved. His unimpeached conduct during an eight years war, attended with the most trying circumstances, is an eulogium that can receive no addition, unless it be from the uniform and invincible attachment of the officers and soldiers of his army to his person during that period.

* *See note (H) in the Appendix.*

Though not verſed in the art military, like his foes, yet they were ſoon taught to reſpect his judgment and fear his power; and what was wanting in force, was ſupplied by policy. His unwearied induſtry, his uncommon method and exactneſs, which gained him the reſpect and confidence of his own army, rendered him formidable to that of his enemies. His ſilent, but eaſy manner of doing buſineſs; his reſerve, void of all haughty ſuperciliouſneſs; his quick diſcernment of every character, and of every ſubject that was preſented to him; his firm and undeviating purpoſe, executed with moderation and humanity, qualified him in the beſt manner for the command of a republican army. How often the above qualities were uſefully diſplayed during the ſtruggle for freedom, and how much the country is indebted for them, is beſt known to thoſe veterans to whom he often expreſſed his thanks for their eſſential ſervices, becauſe they had the moſt opportunity of obſerving them.

Beſides the great and heroic actions that came to public view, thoſe worthy ſons who followed their leader will recollect many of the innumerable virtues of the heart which tranſpired in the more private tranſactions. They will teſtify to the kind, humane and affectionate conduct he always obſerved towards the army;

how careful to cherish life, where an imposing policy did not absolutely require the contrary. They will never forget the deep impression which these qualities made on them; while the *irresistible majesty* of his presence* quelled the riotous, and reduced the refractory to order. His country's cause is now all his own. Never for a moment did he flinch from danger, or attempt to shield himself from being a conspicuous mark for his foes, though exposed to the ten thousand invisible messengers of death, from the savage ambush which routed one British army on the Monongahela, to the capture of another at Yorktown. Amidst all these, and from the assassin's dagger,† Divine Providence remarkably preserved him, till its high purposes were accomplished in him. On his arrival at Cambridge, he found that the zeal of the country, and not its strength in arms or amunition, held the city besieged. He applies immediately to organizing the army, and providing military stores. Heaven smiles.‡ He succeeds in both. An anxious public expect an assault upon Boston, and grow impatient for the time. But to conquer by delay, and expel by circumscribing his enemies, is a more humane, and a safer policy. They leave their post the ensuing March, to seek some more favourable spot for offensive operations. New-York is selected for the purpose. Here again they meet

* *See note (I) in the Appendix.* † *See note (K) in the Appendix.*
‡ *See note (L) in the Appendix.*

a WASHINGTON with his army. The place is not tenable. A ſcene now opens that brings to the ſevereſt teſt all the feelings of the man, and all the reſources of the general. Succeſs is generally accounted wiſdom, and the ſplendor of character is ſought in the ſucceſsful enterprizes of the warrior. But perhaps we ſhould find the moſt ſplendid rays of General WASHINGTON's glory beaming from beneath the dark and dreadful clouds of defeat, misfortune and diſtreſs; attended by the ſhattered remains of a retreating army, and unſupported by an inefficient government. We know not which moſt to admire, his caution or his intrepidity, his moderation or his firmneſs, his penetration in judgment or his promptneſs in deciſion, his patience in ſuffering or his unextinguiſhable zeal and perſeverance in the cauſe of freedom, through years of deep anxiety, and of unparelleled trials and diſappointments.

THE ſubject is now too complex to be analyzed into particulars in a ſingle diſcourſe. Thoſe of you who were then on the ſtage, remember the deep ſhades that overſpread the country; and thoſe of you who accompanied him in his hair-breadth eſcapes from Long-Iſland, York-Iſland and its environs, with the loſs of Fort-Waſhington and its garriſon, Fort-Lee and

its dependencies; in his retreat through the Jerſies, purſued like a hunted hare by a large and victorious army, while his own was conſtantly leſſening by loſſes in action, by ſickneſs, and expiration of enliſtments, and the country too far depreſſed to ſupport him.—Thoſe can beſt conceive the true dignity of his invincible ſoul. We are now to view him on the weſtern margin of the Delaware, looking back with indignant eye to his purſuers, at reſt in Trenton. The inhabitants of the country deſponding, ſay, "all is now loſt." But his heroic ſpirit never deſpairs. Oppreſſed with the weight of a ſinking empire, the attic fire of his breaſt enkindles afreſh. He collects his little hardy band, deſtitute of every comfort; the ſame fire flies through the ranks. They reſolve to follow their leader to victory or to death. In vain does the rolling torrent hurry on the maſſy ſheets of ice upon its turbulent boſom; in vain the ſleety tempeſt from the frozen north, adding new horrors to the darkneſs of December's night, oppoſe the well concerted plan. Ere the morning ſun had enlightened our horizon, twelve hundred aſtoniſhed Heſſians yielded to his conquering arms. The main body of the enemy at Princeton, leaving about five hundred, move on with haſty march to retrieve the loſt. The Delaware in his rear, a powerful army fraught with vindictive rage in front, impoſed a

woeful dilemma. But he who could inſpire the daring hardihood to reſiſt the force of oppoſing elements, knew how to evade their graſp, and extricate his faithful adherents from the fatal ſtroke. The ſucceeding night, leaving deceptive fires to lull the enemy, a circuitous rout of ſeventeen miles preſented them in their rear at Princeton. A MERCER nobly dies in the conteſt. A WASHINGTON placed himſelf on middle ground between the conflicting bodies, a mark for both. His example inſpired a general ardour. They ruſh on, and another victory enſues. An inſtant policy covers the handful of invincibles, who had performed ſuch wonders, on the heights of Morriſtown, marking their way thither with blood, for lack of ſhoes: and an army of eight thouſand men are cooped up in New-Brunſwick during the winter, by the ſkeleton of his own.

AGAIN, committing themſelves to the boſom of the ſwelling ocean, they attempt to elude the penetration of our Argus with his hundred eyes; but in vain. Soon does he meet them at the Head of Elk. Nor does the unfortunate and total rout of his army on the Brandywine, the vexatious diſappointment at Germantown, the loſs of Redbank and Mud-Iſland, after a moſt gallant defence; the diſtreſſing failure of ſupplies of men, proviſions and cloathing, nor the faction raiſing its

ſerpent head in Congreſs to diſplace him, nor the imbecility of their reſolutions, ſhake the firm purpoſe of his energetic ſoul. With an army exhauſted by fatigue, reduced by repeated actions, epidemic diſeaſe, and more dreadful ſufferings, he huts them, in the month of December, in a foreſt at Valley-Forge, about twenty miles from Philadelphia, whither the whole Britiſh army had retired for more comfortable winter quarters. The diſtreſſes of the army at this cantonment* had well nigh ſunk his manly, his compaſſionate ſoul. We caſt a mantle over this diſtreſſing ſcene, as too painful for reflection.

Sir Henry Clinton left Philadelphia on the June following; our hero purſued by a circuitous march of near one hundred and fifty miles, and overtook him on the burning plains of Monmouth. A ſevere battle enſued, and his victorious arms obliged him to fly and ſeek ſhelter in New-York. Such was the perilous ſtate of the army, ſo deficient in numbers and ſupplies, and Congreſs perceiving that their reſolutions did not contain energy ſufficient to draw them forth from the country, that they entruſted their faithful General with the power of doing it himſelf. "Maturely conſidering the criſis, and having perfect reliance in his wiſdom, vigour and uprightneſs," they inveſted him with powers bordering on Dictatorſhip,

* *See note (M) in the Appendix.*

on the 27th of December, 1776; and similar resolutions were passed the two following years. This high betrustment of power was never abused; but was ever used for the best purposes for which it was given. Such was the confidence of his country in him! Such his integrity in the use of it!

During the above gloomy period, when the boldest heart needed support from some quarter, it was oppressed by the reiterated defeats in Canada, with the loss of Generals Montgomery and Thomas; the destruction of a fleet on Lake Champlain; the possession of Rhode-Island by the enemy; the evacuation of Ticonderoga, and the wanton devastations of Vaughan, on the North-River. Pressed by the fortuitous concussion of events on every side, he sends General Gates to retrieve the northern department. He succeeds, and Burgoyne with his army surrenders. He projects, with indefatigable attention, an attack on Stoney-Point, which, with Verplank's-Point, had yielded to the enemy: the deep laid plan succeeds, and the garrison laid down their arms. General Lincoln is sent to protect Charleston, but surrenders to a besieging army vastly superior to his own. He sends General Greene to retrieve the disaster at Cambden, who performs wonders in the South; and at length goes himself for Virginia, leaving the remainder of his army at White-Plains, with so much ad-

dreſs as to cover his intentions from the enemy. The capture of Lord CORNWALLIS and his army cloſed the military operations, and peace enſued.

THE time for diſbanding the army arrived—and now arrived the mighty trial of patriotic virtue. Talk not of a Cæſar! He was brave, but would have enſlaved his country. Say not that an Alexander conquered from Macedonia to Egypt! He never conquered himſelf. He deluged countries in blood, but ſaved none; and wept becauſe his ambition was not yet ſatiated with conqueſt.—It is left for a WASHINGTON to give the nobleſt example of virtue, of religion,† of greatneſs. He conquered for his country. He triumphed in their affections, and at their feet he laid his hard-earned laurels. Like the illuſtrious Roman, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, he "laid down, in peace, arms aſſumed for public "defence."

NOR were the energies of his talents leſs fitted to our ſituation in peace, than to our exigencies in war: and this ſingular adaptation of talents to circumſtances, proved an eminent bleſſing to the United States.

THE Hero and Deliverer of his country, having reſtored to it that tranquility which he ſo much loved himſelf, returns to enjoy it with a

† *See note (N) in the Appendix.*

greater relish on his own domain. He is every where received with a tribute of applause; every heart beats high with admiration, and every tongue is vocal in his praise. The peaceful shades of domestic life were now doubly welcome to him. In the cultivation of the earth, and various useful improvements, he made rapid progress. Happy would he have been, if the calls of the public had suffered the remainder of his days to glide away in this repose. But when the pressure of common danger was at an end, the weakness of the federal government was more fully perceived. The rare phænomenon of a political revolution is now to be accomplished by deliberative assembly. The convention of the States for framing a new constitution of government, place their late Commander in Chief in the chair of state. His known and tried patriotism, and his eminent services to his country, gave weight to his opinion in their deliberations, and contributed in no small degree to the formation and adoption of the admirable system of federal government we now enjoy, and greatly promoted the tranquility and the energy of its operation.

Twice called by the unanimous voice of his country to administer the government he had been so essential an agent in establishing, he sustained the high station of *President of the United*

States, with unbounded applauſe, during eight years. The conſciouſneſs of his own integrity, like a brazen helmet, warded off the ſhafts of envy; and he remained ſtedfaſt in purſuit of an enlightened and pacific policy,* amidſt the ſurges of diſcontented faction and foreign influence, like a huge rock in the ocean, unmoved by the daſhing of its raging billows. Having ſerved the public forty-five years, and nature claiming repoſe, he expreſſes his earneſt wiſh to retire from public life, in an addreſs, which ought to form the political creed of every ſon and daughter of the land. Americans! how venerable this Legiſlator, Leader and Commander appears, in this valedictory addreſs, can be perceived only by reading it *again and again*.

But his repoſe is not long to remain undiſturbed. The will of his country is his own will; her exigencies impoſe an obligation upon him, which he cannot reſiſt. He obeys her call, under the threatening proſpects of war from abroad, and greatly accepts the appointment of Lieutenant-General of the forces to be raiſed for ſuch emergencies. Happily, no ſuch event has arrived. But the morning lowrs, and rapidly brings on the important period that is to terminate his glorious career—Ah me! Washington is no more! On the 14th of December laſt, he met

* *See note (O) in the Appendix.*

death with the ſame fortitude that had marked his life, in the ſixty-eighth year of his age.

MY RESPECTED FRIENDS OF THE CINCINNATI,

To theſe imperfect lineaments of the character of the illuſtrious man who led you to victory, to glory and freedom, your knowledge can add many more. Often have you braved the dangers of the field, and the hardſhips of the camp, in obedience to his command. Your obedience was always cheerful, becauſe impoſed by duty and affection. Your dangers and ſufferings were always ameliorated by the example of your General voluntarily ſharing them with you. You, Gentlemen, have a double ſhare in the common affliction occaſioned by his death. He was your *beloved Commander in Chief*. He was your *venerated Preſident-General*. The beſt evidence of your profound reſpect for his memory, and your beſt improvement of this mournful occaſion, will be to preſerve in your minds his amiable and excellent virtues as a model for conduct in peace, as you did his example of fortitude in war. May your life, like his, be virtuous; and may its end, like his, be triumphant and happy.

MY LITTLE CHILDREN, AND YOUNG FRIENDS,

THOUGH you may never have ſeen the perſon of our beloved WASHINGTON, yet you have often heard his name, and of the good he has

done; and you are now enjoying the fruit of his labours, in the opportunity you enjoy for instruction.* He was once young, as you now are; and when young he was diligent in learning, and amiable in conduct; and when old he reaped the fruits of sober youth. He was beloved by all; he was virtuous; he was happy. We venerate his memory now he is gone, because he was as good as he was great. Let his name be ever dear to you, and never speak, never think of him but with gratitude, respect and affection.

MY FRIENDS AND AFFLICTED FELLOW-CITIZENS,

THIS day has brought with it fresh testimonies of our loss—a nation in tears! It opens new sources of grief, by presenting the millions of his sons assembled around the hearse, to take the last look of their parent, to pay one more tribute of respect, to drop another tear of gratitude and affection for their departed WASHINGTON.

WHILE we deplore an event that has deprived our country of its greatest ornament, and of its best "weapon of war," let us offer up our most unfeigned thanks to the Supreme Disposer of all events, for the continuance of so distinguished a blessing to us for so long a time; and that he would be pleased to afford divine consolation and support to his mourning relict. While we re-

* *See note (P) in the Appendix.*

count his virtues, let us profit by them; and as we ſee the higheſt and the loweſt, the wiſeſt and the weakeſt of our race, falling with equal facility before the fell ravager of mankind, let us paſs our time uſefully and profitably, that we may leave the ſavour of a good example behind, and that the morn of eternal day may beam unclouded upon us.

Finis.

APPENDIX.

(A) Page 5. "We delayed not to lament the eventful crisis."

ON the 23d of December, the afflicting news of General WASHINGTON's death reached this town. The author of the foregoing discourse would have deemed himself deficient in duty and in patriotism, in omitting the earliest opportunity to pay his small tribute of respect to the memory of so much worth; which he attempted, in an appropriate discourse, on the following Sabbath; a copy of which was requested for the press; but the publication was omitted on account of the appointment of the 22d of February for commemorating that event throughout the United States. The pulpit, the communion-table and the orchestra, shrouded with black; the cypress bows and festoons over the chancel and the Venetian window, and around the columns and the urns, and the emblematical mourning piece in front of the desk, shewed the prompt feelings of the congregation on the occasion.

(B) Page 6. "In Rome, badges of mourning."

It is related, that on the death of CINCINNATUS, the ladies of Rome wore the cypress twelve months; and also for BRUTUS the younger.

(C) Page 12. "The elevated lawn."

At the bottom of the elevated lawn, on the banks of the Potomack, is placed the family vault, where the mortal remains of our great WASHINGTON were deposited.

(D) Page 15. "He never lost the respect of the son."

Hearing of the dangerous illness of his mother, in the spring of eighty-seven, he immediately repaired to her, and left her not till she expired. His assiduous and respectful attentions, which were the result of sentiment and habit, were spoken of much to his honour. He came from her interment to Philadelphia, to the convention for forming the present constitution, where the author saw the lines of sorrow that deeply marked his countenance.

(E) Page 16. "The able negociator."

About the age of 21, he was sent by the governor of Virginia to treat with the Six Nations and other western Indians, at the distance of 400 miles, in the dead of winter, through a pathless wilderness, inhabited only by savages; and to remonstrate to the French commander on the Ohio against their encroachments. This enterprize he performed on foot, with his provision on his back. For the judicious and able management of this business, he received the approbation and thanks of his employers; and two years afterwards, he performed that great military exploit of rescuing the shattered remains of General BRADDOCK's army from the horrid jaws of a savage ambuscade, of the danger of which he had notified that unfortunate General. Though a very conspicuous mark for the savage marksmen, he only received a ball through his coat.

(F) Page 16. "Strong proofs of his piety."

Though his inviting the Rev. Mr. DAVIS to perform religious service, and deliver a discourse to the body of men he had the command of as major, at

the age of about 22, on a very important expedition, was no certain evidence of piety in itself, yet all his other conduct, both in the public and private walks of life, corresponding thereto, affords a strong proof of it; and that gentleman, who permitted the above discourse to be published, has the following remarkable note, dictated, no doubt, by the remarkable military talents he had already discovered:—"This young man," meaning Major WASHINGTON, "will one day be the saviour of his country."

(G) Page 17. "Called Mount-Vernon."

This high and commanding ground, situated a few miles below Alexandria, on the Potomack, is called Mount-Vernon, in honour of Admiral Vernon. The area of this beautiful mount is about 200 feet above the surface of that richly flowing river; and furnishing a lawn of about five acres in front, and about the same quantity in the rear of his buildings, falls off abruptly on both those quarters.

(H) Page 19. "The respectful gratulations of."

As though inspired by one soul, all hailed him welcome on the way; public entertainments were made to receive him at every stage; and the Massachusetts Convention, then sitting at Watertown, sent a large deputation of respectable characters to Springfield, to receive and escort him to Cambridge, where he was received with inexpressible joy, and where he soon gave a new face to things.

(I) Page 21. "The irresistible majesty of his presence."

Among many other instances of the commanding influence of his presence, and energy of his reproofs, a very noticeable one was at Prospect-Hill, where a body of riflemen became mutinous. These men had then lately arrived from his own country, which probably increased his indignation at their base conduct. He rode into the midst of them, and by the energy of his address quelled and reduced them to order.

(K) Page 21. "And from the assassin's dagger."

Among many other dangers out of which he was remarkably delivered, a timely discovery was made in New-York, in 1776, of a design formed against his life, by corrupting one of his own guard.

(L) Page 21. "Heaven smiles."

By throwing into our hands the ammunition and military stores sent to supply the enemy, which we so much needed at that time, and were not in our power to command.

(M) Page 25. "The distresses of the army at this cantonment, had well nigh sunk."

General WASHINGTON took this position in a forest, at Valley-Forge, about the 24th of December, 1777, the snow being about half-leg deep, with very few axes to build their huts with. This cantonment General HOWE called, by way of ridicule, "the Indian-Town." It was sufficient, however, to keep him quiet within his own lines, in Philadelphia, though the army was in an extreme state of suffering, for want of provision and cloathing. So great were their distresses, that General WASHINGTON perhaps never felt deeper anxiety than on their account. Being on a visit at head-quarters, he enquired with great solicitude how the soldiery fared, and how they supported their sufferings; and when told,

"with patience and fortitude," he exclaimed, the tears starting from his eyes, "*what will not these brave men endure for the good of their country!*"

(N) Page 27. "Example of virtue, of religion."

In proof of this, many things might be adduced. The frugality and economy of a table supplied by the public; the order, sobriety and moderation ever observed at it, are evincive of virtuous habits, and of the influence of his presence in restraining profanity, intemperance and licentiousness; for these never polluted the social repast, nor offended the chastest ear. His religious example shone in uniformly acknowledging an overruling Providence, ascribing all his successes to that, and in calling on the army "to assemble at their respective parades, to offer up their unfeigned thanks to Almighty God, for the success he had granted them;" besides his attendance at public worship on the sabbath, whenever the state of the army permitted, with great apparent devotion. To the above may be added, his frequently calling on the officers and soldiers, in general orders, to avoid vice and profanity. Of the many instances of this, the two following are offered:

EXTRACT from GENERAL ORDERS, *May 2d*, 1778.

"While we are performing the duty of good citizens and soldiers, we ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of a patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of a *christian*."

EXTRACT from GENERAL ORDERS, *July 29th*, 1779.

"Many and pointed orders have been issued against that unmeaning and abominable custom of swearing; notwithstanding which, with much regret, the General observes it prevails, if *possible*, more than ever; his feelings are continually wounded by the oaths and imprecations of the soldiers, whenever he is in hearing of them. The name of that Being, from whose bountiful goodness we are permitted to exist, and enjoy the comforts of life, is constantly imprecated and profaned, in a manner as wanton as it is shocking. For the sake, therefore, of religion, decency and order, the General hopes and trusts that officers of every rank will use their influence and authority to check a vice which is as unprofitable as it is wicked and shameful."

He was a stranger to religious prejudices, not from an indifference to religion itself, but from a conviction of the benevolent designs of that scheme of religion, which taught him to live and act as a christian, possessing the feelings of a man, and not of a party. He was educated in the outward profession of the Episcopal Church; but his candour towards all religious denominations was manifested on all occasions. His answer to the address of the Jews at Newport, will remain a lasting monument of this----"And it is the glory of the United States, that, with the star of empire, fixed therein is the brighter sun of universal toleration."

(O) Page 29. "An enlightened and pacific policy."

The President of the United States rose with superior grace when he nobly stood forth the independent assertor of their independence, and took a neutral position among the nations at war. Convinced that justice and humanity required it, no apprehension of personal sacrifice could shake his fixed purpose.

(P) Page 31. "The opportunity you enjoy for instruction."

To any one who was present, and saw the interesting and affecting exhibition of 180 young masters and misses, with appropriate dresses, emblematical of innocence and of mourning, no apology is necessary for this address. Nor will it appear improper to any who consider the importance of the rising generation; or the advantages they enjoy from the freedom of their country, through its deceased patron.